Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06409 01 OF 02 040850Z

11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 009990
P 040651Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5609
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6409

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, BOKN IN
SUBJECLJC FOREIGN SECRETARY DISCUSSES BHUTTO'S BANGLADESH VISIT

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI ON OTHER MATTERS JULY 2, HE VOLUNTEERED INTERESTING SIDELIGHTS ON RECENT BHUTTO VISIT TO BANGLADESH.

2. SHAHI SAID THAT THE DATES FOR THE VISIT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS IN YUGOSLAVIA SOMETIME AGO. ABOUT A WEEK BEFORE THE VISIT (WHEN HE WAS IN KUALA LUMPUR) PAK AUTHORITIES BEGAN TO GET WORRIED AT THE NATURE OF ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE BANGLADESH PRESS AND BROADCASTS. IT HAD LOOKED AS IF THERE WAS A DELIBERATE PROGRAM OF PUTTING OUT MATERIAL HOSTILE TO PAKISTAN, PLAYING UP PAST HOSTILITIES,ETC. HE SAID THEY HAD SENT A NOTE THROUGH THE SWISS TO DACCA CALLING ATTENTION TO THIS AND RAISING THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THIS MIGHT CREATE A CLIMATE IN WHICH IT WOULD NOT BE PROPITIOUS TO CARRY ON WITH THE VISIT. HE SAID THEY GOT A QUICK REPLY FROM DACCA SAYING THAT THIS TYPE OF MEDIA ACTIVITY WOULD CEASE AND RECOMMENDING THAT THE VISIT BE KEPT ON SCHEDULE, IMPLYING IN THE PROCESS THAT THE OFFENDING BROADCASTS HAD BEEN IN ANSWER TO PROPAGANDA BRADCAST FROM PAKISTAN.

3. SHAHI SAID THAT THE SECOND JOLT THEY RECEIVED WAS JUST
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06409 01 OF 02 040850Z

PRIOR TO TAKE-OFF WHEN THEY LEARNED THAT BANGLADESH HAD

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

IMPOSED SECTION 144 (I BELIEVE OF THE OLD DEFENSE OF INDIA
ACT) WHICH AMONG OTHER THINGS PROHIBITS PEOPLE FROM GATHERING
IN GROUPS OF MORE THAN FIVE AND COULD BE USED TO SEVERELY
RETRICT ASSEMBLY OF PEOPLE DURING BHUTTO'S VISIT. SHAHI
SAID THE AIRPORT RECSSTION FOR THEM IN DACCA WAS MODEST
BUT CORRECT FROM A PROTOCOL POINT OF VIEW. IN VIEW OF
SECTION 144 THEY WERE SURPRISED AT THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
ALONG THE ROUTE FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE RESIDENCE. THIS
APPARENTLY RAISED THE MORALE OF THE PAK DELEGATION CONSIDERABLY
AS HE DESCRIBED THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE AS BEING VERY FRIENDLY
INDEED.

4. SHAHI SAID THE NEXT SURPRISE CAME IN THE DINNER REMARKS OF
MUJIB WHO, WHILE REMARKING THAT THE PAST SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN,
SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IN DWELLING UPON THOSE THINGS
IN THE PAST WHICH SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN. HE THEN BECAME
QUITE SPECIFIC IN SAYING THAT ASSETS SHOULD BE DIVIDED
ON THE BASIS OF POPULATION AND THAT PAKISTAN HAD AN
OBLIGATION TO TAKE ABOUT 500,000 BIHARIS. THIS SEEMED
RATHER STRANGE TO THE PAKS AS THERE HAD UP TO THIS POINT
BEEN NO OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS. SHAHI SAID THAT DINNER WAS
FOLLOWED BY A CULTURAL SHOW THAT INCLUDED ITEMS SUCH AS THE
PORTRAYAL OF THE BANGLADESH LIBERATION STRUGGLE, ETC.,
WHICH THE PAKS HAD EVERY RIGHT TO CONSIDER OFFENSIVE UNDER
THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

5. SHAHI SAID THAT MUCH OF THE DISCUSSION WAS BETWEEN
BHUTTO AND MUJIB PRIVATELY AND THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE
OPEN MEETING. MUJIB SAID AT THIS MEETING THAT HE DID NOT
HOLD THE PRESENT PAK GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAD
HAPPENED IN 1971. HE APPARENTLY PORTRAYED YAHYA KHAN'S
INTENTIONS AS FIRST TO FINISH OFF MUJIB, AND THEN BHUTTO.
MUJIB THEN LAUNCHED INTO THE SUBJECT OF ASSETS SAYING THAT
56PERCENT OF ALL ASSETS SHOULD BE TURNED OVER TO BANGLADESH, AND
THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME IMMEDIATE PAYMENT MADE IN CONNECTION
WITH THE VISIT. HE ALSO SPOKE STRONGLY ON THE BIHARIS
WHOM HE SAID WERE ON DOLE, THAT BANGLADESH COULD NOT AFFORD
THIS, AND THAT THE PAKISTANIS SHOULD TAKE THEM BACK.

6. SHAHI SAID BHUTTO REPLIED IN BROADER TERMS, POINTING
SECRET

SECRET

OUT THAT THE NATURE OF HIS VISIT WAS ONE OF GOODWILL AND
TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO TAKE UP OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS.
HE SAID THE MATTERS MUJIB HAD MENTIONED HABQUITE COMPLEX
LEGAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND EVEN POLITICAL ASPECTS.
HE SAID HE HAD NOT BROUGHT THE PROPER STAFF TO EVEN ATTEMPT
TO SETTLE THESE THINGS WITHIN A DAY'S NOTICE. HE URGED
MUJIB TO AGREE TO SETTING UP COMMITTEES WHICH COULD LOOK INTO
ALL THESE MATTERS, APPARENTLY OFFERING TO FIX A TIME LIMIT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON THEIR WORK IF MUJIB SO DESIRED. BHUTTO APPARENTLY
ALSO MADE POINT THAT HE ALONG WOULD NOT MAKE THESE SNAP
DECISIONS, (SAYING AT THIS POINT, I THINK, THAT HE DID NOT
BRING HIS CHECK BOOK WITH HIM) BECAUSE WITHIN HIS SYSTEM OF
GOVERNMENT SOME OF THESE MATTERS WOULD HAVE TO BE SHARED
WITH PARLIAMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT MUJIB RETURN HIS VISIT
AFTER THE COMMITTEES HAD DONE THEIR WORK AND THAT DISCUSSIONS
BE CONDUCTED IN MORE DETAIL AT THAT TIME. SHAHI SAID THAT
MUJIB OBJECTED TO IDEA OF ANY JOINT COMMITTEES, SAYING THAT
IN THE END HE WOULD RATHER LEAVE IT UP TO BHUTTO TO SEE
WHAT HE COULD DO TO MEET PAKISTAN'S OBLIGATIONS IN THESE
MATTERS. BHUTTO THEN SAID HE WOULD APPOINT COMMITTEES
OF HIS OWN TO START WORK ON THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED.
SHAHI SAID THAT THE BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER PRESSED
AGAIN FOR AN IMMEDIATE PAYMENT ON THE DIVISION OF ASSETS.
THE PAK REPLY HAD BEEN THAT THEY AGREED THAT BOTH ASSETS
AND LIABILITIES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED, BUT APPARENTLY MADE
IT CLEAR THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO TALK ABOUT ASSETS ALONE.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06409 02 OF 02 040905Z

11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
---------- 010147
P 040651Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5610
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6409

EXDIS

7. SHAHI SAID THERE WAS QUITE A LONG TALK ON THE BIHARIS,
AND WHEN NO FINAL DECISION COULD BE REACHED ON THIS EITHER,
MUJIB HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THERE SHOULD BE NO COMMUNIQUE.

8. THE NEXT THING ON THE SCHEDULE WAS APPARENTLY A VISIT
TO THE 1971 MARTYRS' MONUMENT. BHUTTO HAD OBJECTED TO THIS
BY SAYING THAT THE 1971 MASSACRES WERE NOT ALL ONE-SIDED,
RAISING THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT HIS OWN PEOPLE WOULD THINK IF

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

HE ATTENDED CEREMONY HERE WHICH WOULD IMPLY THAT HE AGREED
THIS WAS SO. MUJIB HAD APPARENTLY BEEN QUITE INSISTENT
SAYING THAT EVERY STATE VISITOR LAID A WREATH AT THIS MOMUMENT
AND THAT HE OPED BHUTTO WOULD AS WELL. SHAHI SAID THAT
BHUTTO WENT RELUCTANTLY, AND AGAINST THE ADVICE OF HIS
SECURITY PERSONNEL. HE SAID THERE WERE PROBABLY A COUPLE
THOUSAND PEOPLE PRESENT, WITH MOST OF THEM QUIET IN THE
BACKGROUND. THERE WERE TWO GROUPS UP FRONT, HOWEVER, WHICH
CHANTED SLOGANS AND CARRIED PLACARDS ADVERSE TO BHUTTO,
SOME OF THEM QUITE INSULTING. IT GAVE APPEARANCE OF BEING
STAGED. SHAHI SAID IT APPEARED AS THEY WERE LEAVING
THAT THERE WERE SOME SCUFFLES BETWEEN THE BULK OF THE
PEOPLE AND THESE HOSTILE GROUPS OUT FRONT.

9. SHAHI SAID THAT ON THEIR DEPARTURE THERE WAS NOBODY
ON THE STREETS EN ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT, BUT THEY COULD SEE
BEHIND THE STREETS CONSIDERABLE CROWDS WHO APPARENTLY HAD
BEEN KEPT OFF THE MAIN ROUTE.
SECRET

SECRET

10. I TOLD SHAHI I WAS DISAPPOINTED IN THE UNPLEASANT ASPECTS
OF THE VISIT THAT HE HAD PORTRAYED. I ASKED WHETHER IN VIEW
OF THIS HE LOOKED BACK UPON THE VISIT AS A GOOD THING AND
SOMETHING THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE. HE WAS QUITE POSITIVE
IN HIS REPLY SAYING THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, THEY
BELIEVED IT WAS WORTHWHILE. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD
TO BE DONE AT SOME TIME TO START THE HEALING PROCESS
AND NOW IT WAS DONE AND OVER WITH. ALSO THEY HAD SENSED A
DEGREE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE BANGLADESH PEOPLE WHICH WAS
QUITE HEARTENING. HE SAID THAT ONE EDITOR HAD TOLD HIM THAT
85PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE WANTED NOTHING BUT THE BEST POSSIBLE
RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN EVEN THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT AND
BUREAUCRACY WERE MORE WARY, PARTIALLY BECUASE THE
EYE OF INDIA WAS UPON THEM. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN
MANY FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS OF THIS TYPE OUTSIDE THE
MEETINGS. ALSO THE VISIT HAD GIVEN THEM A BETTER FEEL OF
THE SITUATION IN BANGLADESH AND THIS WAS IMPORTANT FOR
THEM TO KNOW. IT HAD CERTAINLY HEIGHTENED THEIR SENSE
OF APPRECIATION FOR THE DESPERATE ECONOMIC SITUATION
IN BANGLADESH. ALSO THEY HAD COME TO KNOW SOMETHING OF
THE VARYING ATTITUDES OF DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE RULING
PARTY, ETC.

11. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SHAHI SAID HE THOUGH MUJIB
WAS IN QUITE A QUANDRY AS TO JUST HOW TO HANDLE THE VISIT.
SHAHI SAID HE THOUGH MUJIB WAS SURPRISED AT THE POPULAR
REACTION TO BHUTTO AND SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED BY IT. HE SAID
HE GHOUGHT IT CONTRASTED WITH A RAHTER COLD RECEPTION THE
PRESIDENT OF INDIA HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED, AND THIS TOO WAS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

PROBABLY ON MUJIB'S MIND. HE SAID INDIA WAS NOW SAYING
THAT THE VISIT HAD FAILED, BUT THAT THEY THOUGHT IT UN-
REASONABLE THAT EITHER INDIA OR BANGLADESH WOULD HAVE
EXPECTED SNAP DECISIONS AND BLANK CHECKS ON MATTERS AS
COMPLEX AS THOSE THAT HAD BEEN RAISED. HE SAID THAT MUJIB'S
POSITION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS SEEMED TO PARALLEL THAT OF
INDIA, TAKING THE LINE THAT PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED
FIRST. THIS WAS DISAPPOINTING, BUT THEY REALIZED THAT
MUJIB COULD HARDLY MOVE OUT IN FRONT OF INDIA ON THE
QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. SHAHI SAID THERE
WAS NOTHING FOR THEM TO DO BUT TO ACCEPT THIS, BUT THAT
SECRET

SECRET

HE HOPED MUJIB WOULD REPAY THE VISIT BEFORE TOO LONG AND
THAT STEADY PROGRESS COULD BE MADE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION
OF RELATIONS.

12. I COMPLIMENTED SHAHI ON THEIR PHILOSOPHICAL AND STATESMAN-
LIKE ACCEPTANCE OF FACT THAT THE VISIT WAS WORTHWHILE AND
IMPORTANT IN SPITE OF ITS OCCASIONAL UNPLESANT ASPECTS.
FURTHERMORE I SAID I AGREED WITH HIM, AND THOUGHT THAT IN
A HISTORICAL SENSE BHUTTO HAD VERY MUCH DONE THE RIGHT
THING IN MAKING THIS FIRST MOVE TOWARDS NORMALIZATION WITH ALL
OF ITS IMPRTANCE TO THE FUTURE.
BYROADE

SECRET

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, MEETING REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ISLAMA06409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740177-0929
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740775/aaaacmeg.tel
Line Count: 252
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLJC FOREIGN SECRETARY DISCUSSES BHUTTO'S BANGLADESH VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, (MCDONOUGH, JUDE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005